

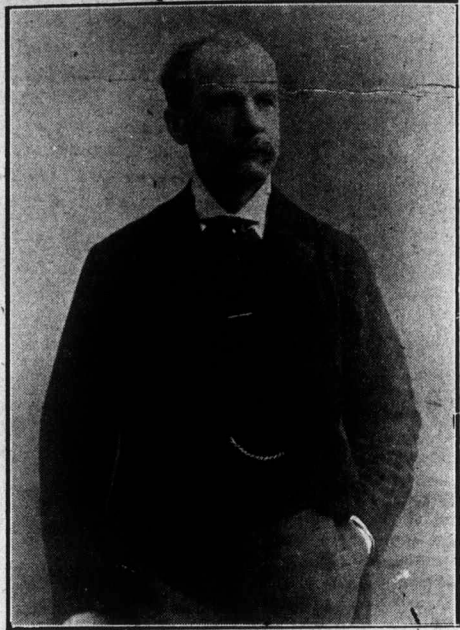
The True Witness

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

Our Representative in the Cabinet!



Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick, K.C.,
MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

Hon. Chas. Fitzpatrick, Minister of Justice for the Dominion of Canada, was born in Quebec on the 19th December, 1853. He was educated at St. Ann's College and graduated as B. A. and B.C.L. at Laval University, where he carried off the Governor-General's medal in 1876. During the same year he was admitted to the Bar of this province. His career as an advocate has been brilliant in all the courts, civil and criminal. In 1887 he was president of the Quebec branch of the Irish National League. From 1890 to 1896 he represented the County of Quebec in the Local Legislature, when he resigned, and was returned to the House of Commons for the same constituency. He was appointed Solicitor-General in the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier at its formation, and has ever since been an active and prominent member of the administration. Mrs. Fitzpatrick is a daughter of the late Hon. R. E. Caron, a distinguished judge, who also filled the office of Lieutenant-Governor of this province. The new Minister of Jus-

lice is a man of eminent ability. He is of fine presence and courteous manners. That he will reflect credit on his race and creed and discharge the important duties of his high office with ability goes without saying. It is particularly gratifying to see that Mr. Fitzpatrick has, at length, succeeded in wiping out the policy of ostracism against Irish Catholics in the Province of Quebec that has been followed since 1867, date of Canadian Confederation. At that time Hon. Thos. D'Arcy McGee, the most eloquent man in Canada, was crowded out. From that day till the present accession of Mr. Fitzpatrick, the Irish Catholics of this province, who had sent such men as Bernard Devlin, the present Mr. Justice Curran, Mr. M. J. F. Quinn, and others to the Dominion Parliament, have never been able to secure a position in the Federal Cabinet. Today the barrier has been removed. We heartily congratulate the new Minister of Justice, and feel grateful to Sir Wilfrid Laurier for having had courage to put the right man in the right place.

AN EXAMPLE FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

Here is a piece of news which we take from the San Francisco "Monitor," which is indeed editing in the extreme. It runs as follows:—
The annual renewal of pledges, the most important occasion in the League of the Cross calendar, will be held in St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 8. Thousands of cadets and members of the junior branches will march to the Cathedral from the various parishes in this city and surrounding counties. The League of the Cross, always thriving and progressive, has taken in many new members during the past year and the scene will be an inspiring one when the solemn pledge is given the assembled youth by His Grace, the Most Rev. Archbishop. The Archbishop will deliver the sermon.

A feature of the ceremonies will be congregational singing by the entire organization, accompanied by the organ. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the singing of the "Te Deum" will conclude the services.
The following schedule shows the hours at which the various branches will meet to march to the Cath-

edral. The place of assembly for all junior branches is the parochial church or hall and for cadet companies the armories:
St. Peter's Parish—Company 1, junior branch, will assemble at 12.30 o'clock.
St. Paul's—Senior branch, Company K, junior branch, will assemble at 12.30 o'clock.
St. James'—Junior branch will assemble at 12.30 o'clock.
St. John's—Company O, junior branch, will assemble at 12.30 o'clock.
Mission Dolores—Company L, junior branch, will assemble at 1 o'clock.
St. Charles'—Company B, junior branch, will assemble at 1 o'clock.
St. Joseph's—Junior will assemble at 1 o'clock.
All Hallows'—Junior branch will assemble at 12.30 o'clock.
St. Teresa's—Junior branch will assemble at 12.30 o'clock.
St. Rose's—Junior branch will assemble at 12.30 o'clock.
St. Brendan's—Company H, junior branch, will assemble at 12.30 o'clock.
St. Patrick's—Junior branch will assemble at 12.30 o'clock.

NOTES OF THE WEEK!

THE LATE REV. ABBE BEDARD

We have had, during the present year, and especially since last summer, in the year that is gone, to record the deaths of a great many of the prominent and zealous priests of this diocese. It is our painful duty, this week, to tell of the almost sudden death of the Venerable Abbe Pierre Bedard, the parish priest of St. Constant. For over a quarter of a century has the lamented pastor directed the spiritual interests of the people of St. Constant, and his death has caused a grief that is as universal as it is profound. The events that marked the solemn obsequies of Curé Bedard are the most eloquent testimony that could be given of the love and esteem in which the departed priest was held by all who knew him.

His Grace, Archbishop Bruchesi, organized a special train by way of the G. T. R. to convey the numerous friends and relatives of the deceased to the place of the sad ceremonies. Despite the blinding snow-storm that raged and the almost impassable state of the roads, the Archbishop and over sixty members of the clergy of the archdiocese, battled their way to St. Constant. After considerable delay along the route, the party of sympathetic mourners reached St. Constant in time to hold the requiem service. Sad was that day for the good people of the bereaved parish.

"CORONATIONS EXTRAORDINARY"

It has been written by an eminent critic, that no man who is prejudiced is competent to write history; there is much truth in the observation, and it equally applies to the one who seeks to record inner events that constitute fragments of the past. As a rule, it is not in the statement of events that the evidence of prejudice comes in, but rather in comments that the writer sees fit to make. We have an example of this falsification of history in an article (one of a series) from the pen of a Mr. Charles Bonham in last Saturday's "Star." The subject is "The Coronation" and "Coronations Extraordinary." The writer claims to tell of what he calls "untoward incidents" that marked the coronation ceremonies of some thirty-six English monarchs, from William the Conqueror down to Queen Victoria.

We do not dispute any of the events recorded by Mr. Bonham. In all probability he has taken pains to hunt up such "untoward incidents" in various histories, biographies, and other publications. In all likelihood they are set down exactly as they had taken place. But what we do object to is the writer's choice of adjectives. He has a peculiar method of qualifying his statements that serves well to ventilate his decidedly anti-Catholic prejudices.

That he should be imbued with these prejudices is regrettable, but not astonishing; what is surprising is the fact that he not only cannot allow an opportunity of expressing them to pass, but that he evidently goes out of his way to create such opportunities.

After telling us that the reign of Richard Coeur de Lion "was so short and disastrous"—but without any explanation of such disasters—the writer turns "aside for a moment from the dark ages of superstition and butchery." To what does he turn? Firstly, to the pronouncement of Archbishop Cranmer, to the effect that:—

"The promises Your Highness hath made here, at your Coronation, to forsake the Devil and all his works, are not to be taken in the Bishop of Rome's sense, when you commit anything distasteful to that See, to hit Your Majesty in the teeth, as Pope Paul III., late Bishop of Rome, sent to your father, saying: "Didst thou not promise, at our permission of thy Coronation, to forsake the Devil and all his works, and dost thou run to heresy?"

And secondly, he turns to Mary Tudor, whom he styles "the ruthless daughter of Henry VIII. and Catharine of Arragon." Then he turns to "the masculine Elizabeth, whose reign emulated the glories of our own dear Queen (Victoria)." Without going any further we

have cited sufficient to show the bent of the writer's prejudiced mind. It would be of service to Mr. Bonham were he to read the serial story now commenced in these columns, possibly he would learn something more exact than he now possesses, concerning the "Masculine Elizabeth" and her times. To our mind it seems almost an historical blasphemy to bracket the names of Elizabeth and Victoria. The glory of the Elizabethan era belongs entirely to the men of that period who despite their sovereign, and not on her account, immortalized themselves and their country. The Victorian era owes as much to the woman, the wife, the mother, the Queen, as it does to her surroundings and to the men who sprang into prominence during that lengthy reign.

The moment we find a writer, who pretends to originality, harping upon the old, discordant, and jarring string of "dark ages and superstition," we at once set him down as a survivor of a generation that is happily passing away, a school of writers whose sole stock-in-trade consists of a few vague and shattering accusations that no longer hold water. It is a pity that even anecdotes, otherwise interesting, cannot be told without a vein of offensiveness running through their composition.

CAR AND AMBULANCE.—The New York "Sunday Tribune" has a striking caricature, under the title "Trying to travel from New York to Brooklyn." A street car is being crowded to overflowing; a couple of citizens are being trampled in the mud; a policeman is helplessly looking on; an ambulance is being loaded with the wounded; and a sign tells the passengers "This way to the ambulance." The scene is by no means exaggerated. In fact, the crowding of street cars, especially at certain hours, in New York, is becoming almost as dangerous as a football match, and far more so than an ordinary battle—as war is carried on at present. We have grave fears that before long Montreal will deserve caricatures of a like class. It is daily becoming more risky to attempt street car riding, especially about six in the evening. As yet the ambulance has not had to be in attendance on the street corners where the congestion is the greatest; and we hope that the time is distant when such a precaution will be necessary. Prevention is better than cure, so we hope that before a climax is reached, there will be found means to avoid all the dangers that threaten the people of New York and Brooklyn.

THE GOSPELS OF WORK.

Dr. Edward A. Steiner, pastor of the First Congregational Church, Cleveland, Ohio, wishes to study life in all its phases in order to find texts for sermons. His method is thus described:—

"His first week will be devoted by Dr. Steiner to newspaper work. He will enter the office of a local paper as a reporter, and will be assigned a beat part of the time and will also be assigned by the city editor to special work. He will be expected to cover all kinds of subjects, as that is his wish. The second week will be devoted to business men, when he will actively participate in the work of some of the leading business houses. The third week will be devoted to work with professional men, lawyers and physicians. Dr. Steiner will devote his fourth and last week to the laboring men. For six days he will be one of them, wearing their clothes and performing the ordinary manual labor of different kinds and receiving the wages they do."

We are not much given to criticizing the methods of non-Catholic preachers. In fact, when a man cannot find texts enough in the Bible, whereon to build sermons, we fail to see how he is going to improve his repertoire by spending a week with each category of his fellow-citizens. Let us suppose that Dr. Steiner wished to lecture instead of preach. Surely he does not imagine that in one week he is going to learn anything about newspaper business. Of course, we have heard of men who never spent an hour inside a news-

paper office, yet, who could dictate to every editor and manager in America how to make a success of journalism. They know all about it, simply because they never tried it. Dr. Steiner is like the man who spends a day in Rome, or in London, and knows more about either city than the people whose lives have been spent in studying the antiquities of the former and the marvels of the latter.

THE CRISIS IN FRANCE.

The "Journal des Debats," one of the leading organs of Paris, contains the following pretty clear statement concerning the critical condition of the country at the present time:—
"Although the phrase has been used to excess, it is none the less accurate to say that the third republic is passing through a most critical period in its history. Whither are we drifting? Every one is asking the question. The elections will answer it. . . . We are menaced by collectivism. Individual property rights are attacked by an overgrowing party, controlling a large number of newspapers, and wielding a considerable amount of governmental authority. Its progress in the past two years has been very decided. However, it is still forced to be more or less prudent. It still condescends to compromise. It awaits the coming elections in the hope that they will give it that additional strength which it needs to fully carry out its programme. What it will do may be gathered from what it has done. The bill against the religious orders has deeply stirred the conservative element. It is but a beginning. Its application is suspended until after the balloting in May, and that application will be of the sort determined by the elections themselves."

This comment, and especially the last paragraphs of it indicate that which might naturally be expected. In regard to the Law of Associations the degree or rigor to be employed in the application of the same will be decided by the coming elections in May next. This simply means that if the present administration is supported by a large majority the persecution of religious orders will be carried on with all the force and means at the disposal of the Government; while if the administration be supported by a slim majority caution will be exercised, and vote will not be forced; and, should the Waldeck-Rousseau party be defeated, the verdict will be taken as a condemnation of the anti-religious policy which it has inaugurated. It seems to us that this is about a fair statement of the situation.

INTERESTING DISCOVERY.

The London "Universe" says:—
It has been announced from Milan that in that ancient city a tomb has been discovered underneath the high altar. In the tomb a coffer was found which contained the remains of two bodies. These are supposed to be the relics of SS. Victor and Satyr, who for long ages have been honored as the special patrons of Milan. There has long been a tradition that during the time St. Charles Borromeo acted as Cardinal Archbishop of Milan the relics of these saints were deposited somewhere in the Church of St. Victor. The exact spot was not known, but the recent discovery will, we think, go far to remove all doubt as to its position. The present Archbishop of Milan, Cardinal Ferrari, witnessed the opening of the tomb and the subsequent examination of the coffer.

ANOTHER FRIEND.

To the Managing Director,
Dear Sir,—Please find enclosed three dollars, one for M. Landrigan, one for M. McCarron, for subscription to the "True Witness," and one for James Farrell, a new subscriber. Please send receipts to M. McCarron.

ST. GABRIEL WARD.

We have received a communication from a sincere friend of the "True Witness" and an enthusiastic worker in the ranks of our people in St. Gabriel Ward, in which he refers to some of the causes which led to the defeat of Mr. Monahan. While we are in sympathy with the aims and views of our friend, as we have often given practical proof, we think it would be better to wait for "the turn in

the lane," to which he refers, before discussing the matter again. In our opinion, Mr. Monahan made a gallant fight considering that it was his first appearance in a public contest. That St. Gabriel Ward will have an Irish Catholic representative in the City Council after the next election we feel quite certain.

PAPAL REPRESENTATIVE.

The Roman "Unita Cattolica" has declared that the rumor for some time current in England as to the selection of Mgr. Merry del Val to represent the Holy Father on the occasion of the coronation of King Edward VII. is quite correct. The "Universe" in referring to the matter says, the representative of the Sovereign Pontiff will not be present at any religious service in Westminster Abbey. He will, however, be granted a special audience shortly after his crowning by the King, at which the good wishes of Pope Leo XIII. will be conveyed to His Majesty.

Lenten Notes.

PAST AND PRESENT.

"La Semaine Religieuse," the official organ of the archdiocese, contains, this week, some very interesting and instructive pages on the various phases of the Lenten season. In the opening remarks on this important subject, that organ contrasts the methods of keeping Lent in our days with those that obtained in the times of our fathers. This pronounced and painfully evident difference in habits and customs is attributed to the self-indulgence that seems to have honey-combed every strata of the social organization. The writer points out the atmosphere of vice which men breathe in clubs, in various resorts of a questionable character, and the taste for ease, luxury and satiety which men acquire almost from childhood, as the causes of the falling off in the observation of the rules prescribed for Lent. There is a vast amount of wisdom in the remarks with which the article closes: "The laws of the Church do not ruin health far from it. It is intemperance, under every form, that kills us." Times out of mind we have sought to impress upon our readers this great truth, that the laws and discipline of the Church are calculated—with an inspired calculation—to protect man, both in body and soul.

LENTE PREACHERS.

This year, as during the past, special preachers will deliver in various churches of the city, the series of Lenten sermons appropriate to that holy season.

At the Cathedral the preacher will be the Bishop of Valleyfield, Mgr. Emard.

At the Gesu, on Sundays during Lent, the sermons (French) at High Mass will be given by the Rev. Louis Lalonde, S.J. The English sermons, in the evening, will be given by the Rev. Father Moeller, S.J., of St. Louis, Mo.

At Notre Dame, Mgr. Rozier of France, who is now well known in this city, will occupy the pulpit during the Lenten season.

Jesuit Fathers on Missions

Rev. Father Gregory O'Bryan, S.J., head of the Jesuit missionaries in Canada, accompanied by Rev. O. B. Devlin, S.J., have left for Newfoundland, where they will be engaged in mission work during the Lenten season.

Bishop Grand n' Very Low

A despatch from Edmonton, N.W.T., under date of February 11 says: Bishop Grandin's condition is not improving, and he is suffering at times very severely. There is no hope of recovery. He is conscious, and able to converse occasionally. Bishop Legal has arrived, and Archbishop Langevin and Rev. Father Lestance will be with him to-day.